Coverage under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1356. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: DR. K. MALAISAMY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan became functional envisaging universal elementary education to achieve before and how much is achieved;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly 40 per cent of the children are yet to be covered; if so, by when the target of covering all eligible children be achieved;

(c) whether, as things stand, it can never be covered before the targeted year of 2010; and

(d) whether the size of the problem has not been correctly assessed and the administration is not geared to match the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The objective of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is ensuring enrolment of all children in the age-group of 6-14 years in schools/bridge courses/Education Guarantee Scheme centres, bridging of gender and social category gaps, universal retention and provision of education of satisfactory quality, by the year 2010.

The number of out of school children has been declining steadily in the country as may be seen below:—

**Out of school children (in lakhs)*

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
320	249	116	135	96	*70

A rigorous system of monitoring of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been put in place which includes, *inter alia,* monthly and quarterly progress reports from States/UTs, furnishing of annual elementary school statistics, field monitoring by 41 independent monitoring institutions and six monthly independent reviews by experts, on the progress of the programme.